

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-11 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 PA-03

USIA-15 PRS-01 RSR-01 SS-15 /091 W

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R 100615Z AUG 73

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 540

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0761

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, CH

SUBJECT: FAA INVITATION TO PRC AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL GROUP

REF: A) PEKING 0499; B) STATE 135091

SUMMARY. CAAC DIRECTOR GENERAL MA JEN-HUI HAS DECLINED FAA INVITATION TO SEND A DELEGATION TO THE US. END SUMMARY.

1. CAAC INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS SECTION DEPUTY DIRECTOR LIU MING ON AUGUST 9 HANDED USLO OFFICER ROPE LETTER FROM CAAC DIRECTOR GENERAL MA JEN-HUI TO FAA ADMINISTRATOR BUTTERFIELD WITH TRANSLATION AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE. DEAR MR. BUTTERFIELD, IT IS WITH PLEASURE TO HAVE RECEIVED YOUR LETTER OF JULY 12, 1973. I WISH TO EXPRESS MY THANKS TO YOU FOR YOUR KIND INVITATION EXTENDED TO THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF CIVIL AVIATION OF CHINA AND OTHER PERSONNEL TO VISIT YOUR COUNTRY IN LATE AUGUST. (PARAGRAPH) AS WE ARE BUSILY ENGAGED DURING THIS PERIOD, WE REGRET THAT WE SHALL NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE SUCH A VISIT AS INVITED BY YOU, FOR THIS WE WISH TO HAVE YOUR UNDERSTANDING. HOWEVER, WE HOPE TO MAKE SUCH A VISIT AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME IN THE FUTURE. (PARAGRAPH) WITH REGARDS, MA JEN-HUEI, DIRECTOR GENERAL, GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF CIVIL AVIATION OF CHINA. UNQUOTE. LETTER FOLLOWS BY POUCH.

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2. IN RELAXED AND FRIENDLY CONVERSATION, LIU EXPRESSED ORALLY CAAC'S APPRECIATION FOR THE INVITATION, AND RESTATED MA'S POSITION THAT PRESS OF CURRENT BUSINESS MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR MA OR MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF TO MAKE THE TRIP. THE TWO SIDES COULD DISCUSS THE MATTER AGAIN, HE SAID, "WHEN THE TIME WAS APPROPRIATE." ASKED WHEN THE TIME MIGHT BE BETTER, LIU SAID HE COULD NOT SAY, BUT HE INDICATED CAAC WOULD BE VERY BUSY FOR THE REST OF 1973.

3. COMMENT: IT IS TRUE THAT THESE ARE BUSY TIMES FOR CAAC, AS PLANNING FOR EXPANDED DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL SERVICES MOVES FORWARD. WE THEREFORE HAVE NO CAUSE TO QUESTION MA'S SINCERITY IN DECLINING THE FAA INVITATION AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, WE THINK THE FAA PROPOSAL MIGHT HAVE HAD A BETTER CHANCE OF SUCCESS IF I HAD NOT SPECIFICALLY INCLUDED THE CAAC DIRECTOR GENERAL AMONG THOSE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE. ALSO, THE RELATIVELY SHORT ADVANCE NOTICE PROVIDED TO THE CHINESE MAY HAVE MADE IT ALL THE MORE DIFFICULT FOR CAAC TO ACCEPT IN THIS CASE. IN THE FUTURE, WE THINK IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR THE USG TO SEEK ACCEPTANCE IN THE PRINCIPLE OF SUCH INVITATIONS WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE PROPOSED VISIT. THEREAFTER, THE SPECIFICS OF TIMING COULD BE DISCUSSED AND A FORMAL INVITATION ISSUED.
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